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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,957	12/20/2001	David Alan Peters	13DV13606	8995

31852 7590 04/08/2004  
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EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/033,957

Applicant(s)

PETERS ET AL.

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/20/01
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 5,931,877).

As to claims 1, and 2, Smith et al. discloses a system, comprising:

a) an aircraft (See column 2, lines 24-34);

b) a first maintenance manual for the aircraft, stored in computer-readable form aboard the aircraft (See column 2, lines 37-67); and

c) means for displaying the maintenance manual to a human (See column 3, lines 50-64, also see column 1, lines 20-28, prior art).

As to claim 3, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

d) a ground-based computer (See column 4, lines 31-67, and see column 5, lines 1-15);  
and

e) a second maintenance manual for the aircraft, stored in computer-readable form in the ground-based computer (See column 4, lines 15-30).

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As to claim 4, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

f) means for causing changes made in the second maintenance manual to be replicated in the first maintenance manual (See column 10, lines 5-17, also see column 5, lines 44-67, and see column 6, lines 1-36, and see column 6, lines 60-67).

As to claim 5, Smith et al. discloses a system, comprising:

- a) an aircraft (See column 2, lines 24-34);
- b) computer-readable memory, carried by the aircraft, which stores content containing at least one document in the following group (See column 2, lines 37-67);
  - i) maintenance manual for the aircraft (See column 6, lines 38-67, also see column 4, lines 15-30);
  - ii) maintenance log of the aircraft (See column 6, lines 38-67, also see column 4, lines 15-30);
  - iii) configuration log of the aircraft (See column 10, lines 1-18); and
- c) means for enabling a crew member of the aircraft to read the content (See column 3, lines 50-64, also see column 1, lines 20-28, prior art).

As to claim 6, Smith et al. discloses wherein the group further contains iv) pilot logbooks (See column 4, lines 31-58).

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As to claim 7, Smith et al. discloses wherein the group further contains v) taskcards (See column 6, lines 13-59, also see column 3, lines 24-64).

As to claim 8, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

d) means for receiving data from a remote source, and modifying the content, using the data (See column 10, lines 5-17, also see column 5, lines 44-67, and see column 6, lines 1-36, and see column 6, lines 60-67).

As to claim 9, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

d) means for updating the content, in response to messages received from an external source (See column 10, lines 5-17, also see column 5, lines 44-67, and see column 6, lines 1-36).

As to claim 10, Smith et al. discloses a method, comprising:

a) onboard an aircraft, maintaining a maintenance manual for the aircraft in computer-readable form (See column 6, lines 38-67, also see column 4, lines 15-30, also see column 7, lines 23-43); and

b) at intervals, modifying the manual (See column 6, lines 60-67).

As to claim 11, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

c) onboard the aircraft, maintaining a maintenance log of the aircraft in computer-readable form (See column 6, lines 38-67, also see column 4, lines 15-30).

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As to claim 12, Smith et al. discloses further comprising:

d) onboard the aircraft, maintaining a configuration log of the aircraft, in computer-readable form (See column 6, lines 1-27).

As to claim 13, Smith et al. discloses a method, comprising the following steps:

a) maintaining, onboard an aircraft, a first set of documents in computer-readable form, said first set of documents comprising one or more of the following (See column 7, lines 23-67):

- i) a maintenance manual for the aircraft (See column 6, lines 38-67);
- ii) a maintenance log of the aircraft (See column 6, lines 38-67);
- iii) a configuration log of the aircraft (See column 3, lines 50-67, and see column 4, lines 1-30, also see column 6, lines 1-12); and

iv) pilot logbooks (See column 4, lines 31-58);

b) causing alterations to occur in the first set (See column 2, lines 43-67);

c) maintaining, at an earth-based site, a second set of documents in computer-readable form, said second set of documents comprising one or more of the following (See column 4, lines 31-67, and see column 5, lines 1-15):

i) a maintenance manual for the aircraft (See column 5, lines 54-67, and see column 6, lines 1-41);

ii) a maintenance log of the aircraft (See column 6, lines 1-59);

iii) a configuration log of the aircraft (See column 10, lines 1-18); and

iv) pilot logbooks (See column 4, lines 31-48, wherein “pilot logbooks” reads on “pilot debrief”); and

d) replicating the alterations into the second set of documents (See column 6, lines 60-67, wherein "replicating the alterations" reads on "updated automatically").

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sandifer (U.S. Patent No. 5,778,381) teaches computer aided maintenance information system for equipment subject to regulatory compliance.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 703-305-8114. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4: 30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Neveen Abel-Jalil

March 24, 2004

*Charles Rones*  
CHARLES RONES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER